

REMARKS

Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner states that claims 27 - 47 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has canceled claims 27 - 47 and added new claims 54 - 67 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner objects to "one-sided triangle" in claims 30, 37, and 44. The new claims 54 - 67 by the Applicant do not include this terminology.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 27 - 30, 34 - 37, 41 - 44, 48, 50, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by James et al. (US 6,099,394). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. The new claims 54 - 67 by the Applicant include differences between the grooves in a center area and the grooves in an edge area of a polish pad. The differences may be in one or more of the following: groove shape, groove depth, groove width, and groove density. These elements are absent in James et al. which was cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to the new claims 54 - 67 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e).

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 31 - 33, 38 - 40, 45 - 47, 49, 51, and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over James et al. (US 6,099,394). The Examiner states that where the general conditions of the claim are disclosed in the

prior art, discovering the optimum or workable range involves only routine skill in the art.

It is Applicant's understanding that the general conditions of the claim are not disclosed in the James et al. reference that was cited by the Examiner. The limitations are also not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to the new claims 54 - 67 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a).

Applicant believes that all claims pending are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.